Training period of Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Courses

†102. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have increased the training and study period from three and a half years to four and a half years of physiotherapy and occupational therapy in Janviklang Sansthan; Delhi

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that this degree still bears the same nomenclature as B.Sc (Hons.), while it is completely essential to name it as Bachelor or Physiotherapy (B.P.T.) after raising its training period to four and a half years; and

(c) if so, whether Government will change its name and the reason for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) The duration of degree courses on Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy conducted by the Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi has been increased from $3^1/_2$ years to $4^1/_2$ years *w.e.f.* 2000-2001 Session.

(b) and (c) The matter regarding change of nomenclature to Bachelor of Physiotherapy (BPT)/Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (BOT) has been taken up the Institute with the University of Delhi.

Tribal welfare begins with a cut

103. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned, "Tribal welfare begins with a cut", which appeared in the Times of India dated the 22nd October, 2001;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any official inquiry has been ordered into the incidents of irregularities alleged in the news report;

(d) if so, the results thereto and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) further steps proposed to address the problems highlighted in the report?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry of Tribal Affairs sanctions projects and releases grants to Non- Governmental Organizations, subject to fulfilment of requirements for release of grants like submission of application, State Government's Inspection Report, Audited Accounts etc. Shri M.K. Pradhan, worked as Minister's Personal Staff from 1-11-99 to December, 2000. During his period of service with Minister no complaints regarding his indulgence into any corrupt practice had been received in the Ministry. Further, Servants of India Society, Koraput have confirmed in writing *suo moto* that allegations involving them are totally baseless and untrue. No private person has been authorized to inspect any NGO run project and submit report. However, the BJP President, Koraput had brought to the notice of the Minister about misappropriation of funds released to the organization 'Nyaya Sahayak Samiti, Koraput' and demanded for inquiry.

(c) and (d) The essence of the allegations are not based on facts and hence no official inquiry is considered to be necessary.

(e) The funds are released in accordance with the prescribed procedure and efforts are made to release the funds in time. In some cases delays are inevitable for want of documents from the organization or inspection reports and recommendations of the State Government concerned. Appropriate steps would be taken if any specific complaint having relevance with the report arises.

Tawaria Tribe

104. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the members of Tawaria tribe are involved in criminal activities all over the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to check the activities of these tribal people and prepare a data-base about these tribals; and

(c) the fresh steps taken / proposed to be taken by Government for rehabilitation of these tribals involved in unlawful activities?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.